

MARVEL

5 of 5

PARENTAL  
ADVISORY!  
NOT FOR KIDS!

GEORGE A. ROMERO

# EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

ACT TWO

ILLUSTRATED BY  
DALIBOR TALAJIC



D. Talajic

# NYC UNDEAD UPDATE!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE



PENNY JONES



PAUL BARNUM



XAVIER

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE VIA THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE AND HIS CABAL OF SECRET VAMPIRES!

PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND ZOMBIE WRANGLER PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME A ZOMBIE (AND FORMER SWAT OFFICER) NAMED XAVIER WHO NOT ONLY EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE BUT SHOWED COMPASSION, SAVING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO.

BUT IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS. A MAN NAMED RUNYON PULLS STRINGS TO QUIETLY BACK DARK HORSE MAYORAL CANDIDATE (AND VAMPIRE) CHILLY DOBBS TO CHALLENGE CHANDRAKE. A VAMPIRE VICTIM BROUGHT TO PENNY'S HOSPITAL BEGINS TO MAKE HER SUSPICIOUS AS CHANDRAKE MOVES UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE. BARNUM THWARTS A VAMPIRE ATTACK AND DECIDES A LINE MUST BE DRAWN.

NEW YORK REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE. BE PREPARED. STAY VIGILANT.  
AIM FOR THE BRAIN.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE   
**CITY COUNCIL FOR SECURITY:**

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COLUMBIA  
HOSPITAL...





I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED. SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THE SYMPTOMS.

SYMPOTMS...?

RONALD CHANDRAKE IS A VAMPIRE. AND I'M WORRIED HE MIGHT HAVE...SOMEHOW... INFECTED YOU.

BUT...YOU SAID YOURSELF...THERE'S NO SUCH THING!

THREE YEARS AGO WE ALL WOULD HAVE SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DEAD TO GET UP AND WALK. NOW...HERE THEY ARE. ALL AROUND US.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE, PENNY. THE EFFECTS CAN BE REVERSED.

I...CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!



IF...IF THERE'S ANY TRUTH IN THIS, I SUPPOSE I NEED TO ASK...ARE YOU...?

NO  
PRIVACY  
HERE. I'LL  
CALL YOU  
TONIGHT.

WHAP



PENNY JONES' LAB.  
LATER.

BZZ BZZ BZZ



CHANDRAKE,  
YOU...BASTARD!

NEW VOICEMAIL  
FROM MAYOR  
CHANDRAKE.

BEEP?

HELLO,  
DEAR. CALL  
ME.



HOW COULD  
YOU DO THIS  
TO ME!?





WHO ARE YOU? BOTH OF YOU! WHO AND... AND WHAT ARE YOU!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S APARTMENT.



MIDTOWN LOFT.



CALL CAME IN.  
THE MAYOR'S  
LOOKIN' FOR  
YA.

THE MAYOR  
IS ALWAYS  
LOOKIN' FOR ME.  
SET YOUR TRACKER  
TO SIX-OH-NINE.

SIX-OH-  
NINE. THAT'S  
A.M.

YEAH.  
THIS MOOK  
IS ON THE  
OPEN AIR.

WHAT  
MOOK?

THE MOOK  
WE'RE TRYIN'  
TO FIND! CHILLY  
DOBBS.

SIGNAL'S  
COMIN' FROM  
SOMEWHERE IN  
MIDTOWN.  
NOT FAR.

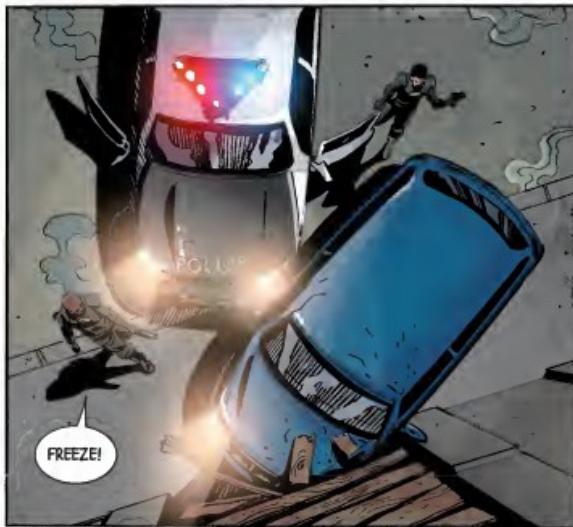
WOAH. I  
ALREADY GOT  
THE GUY. JUST  
A BLOCK  
AWAY.

WAIT,  
THE SIGNAL'S  
MOVING!  
THEY'RE  
MOBILE!

IT'S COMING FROM THAT CAR!

PUSH IT,  
PUSH IT,  
PUSH IT!

SKR NCH



DON'T SHOOT! I'M JUST A FLUNKY. DON'T GIVE A COCKROACH'S FART WHO WINS THE ELECTION.

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NAME?

WILMOTT,  
SIR. REGIS  
WILMOTT.



MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S  
APARTMENT.

A CAR!

BROADCASTING  
PRE-RECORDED  
MESSAGES. THAT'S  
WHY WE CAN'T FIND  
WHERE DOBBS IS  
HOLED UP.

FIGURE  
IT OUT!  
FAST!

S'MATTER,  
HUBBY? YOUR  
PRIVATE DICK NOT  
RISING TO THE  
OCASION?

YOU HAVE  
A WICKED  
TONGUE,  
DARLING.

I WAS TRYING  
TO REACH YOU  
EARLIER.

WERE YOU?  
I DIDN'T KNOW.  
I WAS IN PURSUIT,  
SIR. OF...

MOMENTS LATER.

I'VE HAD  
IT WITH THAT  
GUY.

HE'S SENT  
TOO MANY OF HIS  
OWN DOWN THE RIVER.  
WHO KNOWS WHO  
MIGHT BE NEXT?

TAKE IT  
EASY, MAN. HE'S  
THE BOSS.

I DON'T  
CARE IF YOU WERE  
PURSUING JACK THE  
RIPPER. WHEN I NEED  
YOU, I WANT TO  
KNOW THAT YOU'RE  
AVAILABLE.



WHAT CAN I DO,  
EXCEPT...  
THIS!



BARNUM'S APARTMENT.

GIMME  
A SPLASH,  
WILL YA?



I MISS  
YOU PAUL. MISS  
YOU BAD. GUESS  
I PICKED THE  
WRONG GUY.

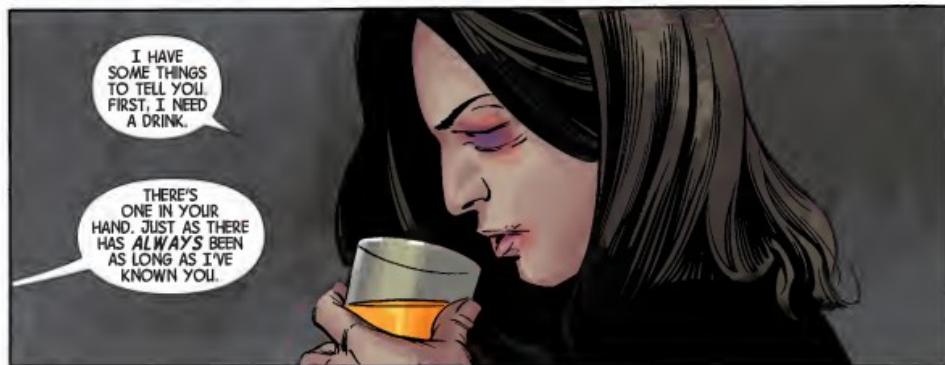


THE WAY  
YOUR FACE  
LOOKS, I'D SAY  
YOU PICKED WAY  
WRONG.



I HAVE  
SOME THINGS  
TO TELL YOU.  
FIRST, I NEED  
A DRINK.

THERE'S  
ONE IN YOUR  
HAND. JUST AS THERE  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
AS LONG AS I'VE  
KNOWN YOU.







POLICE HEADQUARTERS.  
LATER.





BENEATH THE ARENA.

I'LL KEEP THIS FOR YA, BUT IT'S YOURS. WHENEVER YOU NEED IT, YOU GOT IT.



I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND ME. BUT THERE'S TIMES WHEN I'M NOT SURE.



I THINK YOU WANT ME TO KEEP THIS KEY. IF YOU DON'T... JUST STOP ME FROM PUTTING IT INTO MY BAG.



OKAY, THEN.



## PENNY JONES' LAB.



THE ARENA.





# NEXT: ACT 3

